THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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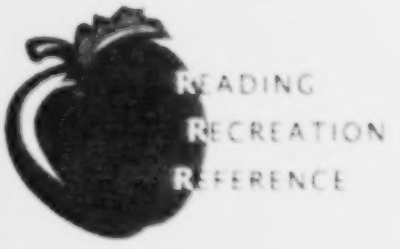
NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

"Safety On The Internet" is a program giving safety tips for searching the Internet which is promoted by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) on a regular basis. It was recently brought to the attention of those who attended the Nova Scotia Library Association. The program includes a booklet called Parents Guide to the Internet published by the U.S. Department of Education and recommended by the Canadian Library Association (CLA); a pamphlet called Have a Safe Trip! A Parent's Guide to Safety on the Internet produced by CLA; a bibliography compiled by AVRL of books available for loan from their collection called Safety on the Internet, September 1999; and a bookmark listing various Internet sites which provide useful hints and guidelines for safe searching for children.



Many thanks go to AVRL for hosting a wonderful Nova Scotia Library Conference with the Three R's theme of

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"Reading, Recreation, Reference" (read more about that topic later in this issue).

Eastern Counties Regional Library

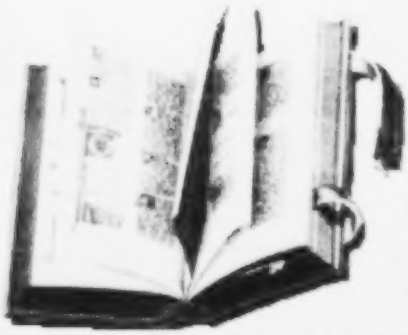
Enthusiasm is growing for a fully automated system at Eastern Counties Regional Library. In our branches, new patron cards are being distributed to all patrons who, after the re-registration process, are also eagerly awaiting on-line circulation. Carl Clements, a university co-op student, is currently offering public training sessions on library services at both Cap sites and Branch Libraries. Carl is also presenting staff training sessions on MultiLIS and new software programs, while David Cumby is busy installing new computers and ensuring that all aspects of operations are Y2K compliant.

Prior to its complete retirement, the Bookmobile 1 has undergone an interior facelift suited to its new vocation of service to school children. Close cooperation with teachers and principals has allowed library staff to register large numbers of young people to the public mobile library.

In October, as well as the regular fall activities which have begun once again in the branch libraries, the Petit de Grat Branch welcomed John François, an Acadian author from Louisiana. Staff are now looking forward to the author tour scheduled for National Children's Book Week, November 15-21, 1999.

South Shore Regional Library

Adopt-A-Book Going Well at South Shore Regional Library



South Shore Regional Library borrowers are loyal to a fault! They have been asking for a way to help the Library since the last adopt-a-book program in 1997. So... it's back. During October and November, patrons may "adopt" a book for the Library and help freshen the Library's collection. Those interested in helping the Library can drop in to any South Shore Regional Library Branch, choose a book from the list provided and pay the purchase price. Adopters will receive a tax receipt, first borrowing privileges on the book when it arrives and an optional book plate in the book which will acknowledge the donor or honour the memory of someone special.

Library staff have chosen over 1,000 titles for the Adopt-A-Book "wish list". These are divided into groups of 200, so each Branch (Bridgewater, Liverpool, Lunenburg and Mobile Branches 1 & 2) will have a great selection. The titles include fiction and non-fiction for adults and children and range in price from $5 to about $75.

Those who wish to make a donation but don't see anything on the list that interests them are encouraged to contribute to a "Reference Fund" in their Branch. Reference funds will be used to buy reference books or sets which are too expensive for one contributor. For example, the 17 volume Encyclopedia of Family Health costs about $40 per volume. The Family Law Guide is $600. Adopters may donate all or part of the purchase price of a volume. For a minimum $5 donation, the donor will receive a tax receipt and their name will be included on the book plate. To date, borrowers have adopted about 100 books, worth $2,500.

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS (CORL)

The semi-annual Council of Regional Librarians meeting was held in Amherst, October 14 and 15. A lively presentation was given by Juanita Boyle from Amherst Insurance Agency on the typical insurance needs for organizations such as libraries. Alan Wilson, Chair of the South Shore Regional Library Board and Vice-President of Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) gave a presentation on possible pension plan enhancements for regional library workers in the province and the issue of a common classification

scheme and salary plan for regional public libraries in Nova Scotia. A particular highlight was the supper hosted by Beverly True, the soon to be retiring Chief of the Cumberland Regional Library. Gifts were presented to Beverly and Ann Ripley, the recently retired Chief of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
NSLA 1999

Approximately 150 library "people" attended this year's conference at the Old Orchard Inn. The weekend began for most on Friday evening with a progressive reception. A bus picked everyone up at the Old Orchard Inn then on to the Horton High School for a tour of the library. Acadia University's library was next with the final stop and a wine and cheese reception at the Wolfville Memorial Library and Community Access Program (CAP) site.

The keynote address by Phil Roberts, Mayor of Annapolis Royal, author of several books of poetry and of *How Poetry Works: the Elements of English Poetry*, set the mood for the conference and prepared everyone for a fun and informative weekend. A total of fifteen workshops were offered over Saturday and Sunday. Topics varied from *Retirement & Financial Planning* to *Practical Guide to the Interview Process*.

The South Shore Regional Library is the host for the year 2000 conference.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Staffing Notes

Elizabeth (Betsy) Armstrong has been appointed Acting Provincial Librarian for the period extending to March 31, 2001. Betsy has worked in the field of public libraries for many years beginning at the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library in the late 1960s. From there she went to Halifax County Regional Library and following graduation from Library School (Dalhousie) worked at the York Regional Library in New Brunswick for a few years before returning to Halifax. Betsy joined the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in 1978 as Supervisor of Public Libraries and has worked in most areas of the Provincial Library operations since that time.

Carole Compton-Smith moved from her position as Coordinator of User Services to Coordinator of Technical Services (effective as of June 1999).

Michael Colborne brings 23 years of public library experience to his new position as Coordinator of User Services. A graduate of Mount Allison University and the College of Librarianship, Wales in Aberystwyth, Michael has held a variety of positions at the Dartmouth Regional Library, the Halifax City Regional Library, and the Halifax Regional Library. Although his experience has focused on reference work, he also has held positions in Technical Services and Administration. Michael is a former NSLA president and recently completed a two year term on the board of the Canadian Association of Public Libraries. He is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chebucto Community Net.

On October 16, Michael Gillis, Systems Administrator, was awarded a Masters Degree in Computer Science from Daltech Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University. He says his friends and family are relieved that "after much sweat, tears and the occasional extension his quest has been realized."

Training Notes

Staff in the User Services Section of the Provincial Library conducted some training workshops in October 1999. Frank Oram conducted a workshop on *Information Sources on Global Tourism* for five staff members of the Halifax Regional Library October 22 at the Provincial Library. Both print and nonprint sources were discussed. The emphasis of the session was on authoritative information sources available via the world wide web. Gillian Webster conducted two workshops on *Canadian Sources of Statistics on the Web* to ten people, the majority of whom were members of the Halifax Regional Library

On September 14, Michael Vandenburg conducted an Infotrac training session for 24 library specialists from the Chignecto Regional School Board at Redcliffe Middle School in Bible Hill. The Chignecto Regional School Board is new to the full text bibliographic databases, which include subscriptions to current sources of information on many topics pertinent to high school assignments. It is now possible, with the newest version of the product, to bookmark any page and return to it later. This feature will help students working on assignments over several days or weeks. The session was also successful in that a number of the participants in the session were teachers, who gained a new appreciation for the amount of work that the school library specialists do to keep up to date with emerging sources of information. (Since all the regional public libraries in Nova Scotia also

subscribe to Infotrac, be sure to explore the new version of Infotrac at your local library - the staff are trained to get you started).

On September 16, Johanna Cooper and Michael Vandenburg traveled to Mulgrave to provide Eastern Regional Counties Library (ECR) with MultiLIS training in the Collection Exchange module. Ann Dunsworth, Library Assistant, Special Services, accompanied them in order to receive the training also, as she will use the Collection Exchange module with talking books. With the Collection Exchange module, materials have a permanent location at a regional library's headquarters, and a temporary location at one of the branches that can be quickly changed. This allows the regions to use MultiLIS to rotate their collections among their branches, ultimately providing more variety for the regular patrons of any given branch.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES

THE WORD ON THE STREET

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library occupied a booth at Word on the Street, September 26, from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. The Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries, the province-wide Summer Reading Program (SRP)and the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award were all represented. Staff from the Provincial Library, along with Wendy Robichaud, the Public Information Officer, Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, took turns passing out handouts on the SRP, the Government Library Consolidated Catalogue (GLCC) and the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award. A number of SRP t-shirts, sweatshirts, mousepads and posters were also sold.

Many people who stopped at the booth were already aware of the SRP and expressed interest and delight at the introduction of the Hackmatack award. All visitors were invited to fill in a ballot to enter a draw for a basket filled with books nominated for the Hackmatack Award, along with a couple of SRP shirts. The winner of the "basket of books" was Evan Green of Halifax. The photo shows a very busy Monika Sormova promoting the Provincial Library/Hackmatack booth.

NovaKnowledge 1999 Regional Summit

The Fall NovaKnowledge meeting was held at the Museum of Industry in Stellarton. It provided information on a variety of knowledge-based industries that exist in Nova Scotia and explored how technology is being used within these industries. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library benefited from the Summit through increased exposure to, and awareness of, the local knowledge-based economy, which may serve to identify areas in which the Library can develop activities, as well as profited from the excellent networking opportunities it provided. Bernadette Kennedy, Project Manager for the Access to Government Library Holdings, attended the Summit on behalf of the Provincial Library.

NovaKnowledge

Licensing video conference a success!

The NSPL provided viewing of the SLA video conference *Effective Negotiating Techniques for Licensing Content*, on October 14, on behalf of CASLIS Atlantic, APLA and Novanet. The broadcast, the second part of a two part series, the first of which aired in March 1999, focused on the various elements of licensing negotiations and described techniques for successful negotiation outcomes. Audience members were given the opportunity to participate in the session by phoning in or faxing in their questions during two question and answer segments. Following the broadcast participants at the NSPL site took advantage of the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge by taking part in role playing activities and discussion groups simulating license negotiation situations.

Building Earth's Largest Library - video conference review

The video conference began with a presentation in which Mr. Steve Coffman gave an overview of the ideas expressed in his article *Building Earth's Largest Library: Driving into the future*. His vision involved doing away with local catalogues and combining these small collections with the large union catalogues (i.e. OCLC, ILL) to create one massive web-based catalogue. This web-based catalogue would be enhanced to include such elements as: a choice of search engine, browse lists, graphical images of the book cover, reviews, interviews, and personalized service for the user, many of which are currently available from other web-based catalogues such as Amazon.com. A copy of the video conference is available for viewing at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. A second copy will be available for inter-library loan.

Writers Federation of Nova Scotia Website Update

As some of you may know, the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS) has a wonderful website, but with a new address, at http://www.writers.ns.ca . Along with basic information about WFNS it includes a great deal of information that anyone with an interest in copyright, arts funding or taxation on reading, for example, would want to know about. There is also a listing of more than four hundred book and periodical publishers who have their own websites.

Hackmatack Finalists on the Web

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award is an Atlantic Canadian book award that allows children to choose their favourite Canadian and Atlantic Canadian books. In the September issue, we featured the second of six articles from each of the 1999-2000 Fiction Shortlist and the 1999-2000 Non-Fiction Shortlists.

In this issue, the fiction title is *Silverwing* by Kenneth Oppel (Reading Level: Grade 5; Interest level 4 to 8), and the non-fiction title is *On Board The Titanic* by Shelley Tanaka (Reading Level: Grade 4; Interest level 3 to 7). Visit the Hackmatack page and read the book descriptions at www.library.ns.ca/hackmatack/books.html.

Kenneth Oppel (standing) is shown reading to a Dartmouth audience at Penhorn Cinemas recently. He has won numerous awards for Silverwing, the story Shade, a young silverwing bat who is determined to prove himself during the long winter migration, despite many hardships.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like information on the prison system in Sweden.

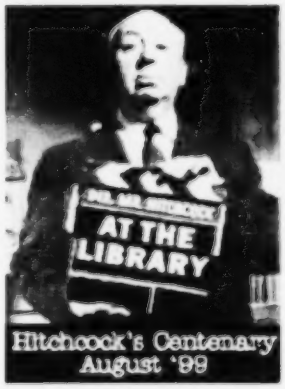
A. Using the AltaVista Search engine at http://www.altavista.net/ enter the keywords "prison sweden". This locates a page titled "Prison and Probation Service in Sweden" at http://www.kvv.se/english/ which is the site of the Swedish Prison and Probation Administration. InferenceFind at http://www.infind.com/ , a meta search engine which searches other search engines on the Web was used next. It also located the "Prison and Probation Service in Sweden" page and in addition a page titled "The Prison and Parole Service in Sweden" at http://home.swipnet.se/~w-66151/dept.html

Q. Looking for science magazines which are suitable for children.

A. At the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association site at http://www.cmpa.ca/maghome.html click on the following sequence of headings: Magazine Readers - Index of Member Magazines - Subject listing of magazines - Children & Teens. There are a couple of suitable magazines listed here. The Ultimate Collection of News Links at http://pppp.net/links/news/ lists 19 children's magazines in the "Home - Children" section. You can reach this by scrolling down to "Canada & USA - Nationwide & Online Only" under "North America" on the left-hand side of the site's homepage. Some of these children's magazines cover science topics.

LINKed

Inspiration for this month's Linked column came from the Readers' Advisory/Mysteries workshop at the recent Nova Scotia Library Association Conference where these Internet mystery sites were discussed.



MysteryNet.com: The Online Mystery Network at http://www.mysterynet.com/ has a wealth of information for the mystery lover of all ages including an "Interactive Mystery Soap" where participants can assume the role of director and vote to determine the path the story will take. The Book section has "Drood Review of the Week", a mystery book store directory and interviews with authors. MysteryNet Books features new releases and has lists of books arranged by type of mystery. The "Information and Resources" section has "The History of the Mystery" with facts on the evolution of the mystery, greatest crime-solvers of all time and the men and women who created them. You can discuss mystery, crime, and suspense in the "Message Boards & Community" section. There are also links to other mystery sites - The Case.com which has mini mysteries which you can help to solve online,

TheCase.com/Kids Club at http://www.TheCase.com/kids/ with mysteries for children to solve online and NancyDrew.com at http://www.NancyDrew.com/ which is the official online home of Nancy Drew. The Nancy Drew site has a "Kids" and "Grownups" button but the content of both seems to be the same. There is a list of Nancy Drew books, lots of background information in the "Knowing Nancy" section, a "Lesson Plans" section for teachers and an original interactive mystery to solve every week.

Mysterious Strands at http://www.idsonline.com/userweb/cwilson/mystery.htm has an alphabetical list of links to sites with information on mystery writers and a list of links to Mystery Reference Source sites such as Stop, You're Killing Me! at http://www.stopyourekillingme.com/ where for example, you can search in the "Series Character Index" for mysteries where the sleuth is a librarian. There are also lists of related events, organizations, magazines, newsletters, online mystery guides & reviews, bookstores and publishers and the Characters section has a list of web sites of famous fictitious detectives.

Detective/Mystery:Series & Sequels at http://www.bookbrowser.com/Detmyst/mysteries.html is part of BookBrowser: the guide for avid readers at http://www.bookbrowser.com/ which is an online readers guide to fiction maintained by two librarians. Detective/Mystery: Series & Sequels has nearly 1,000 reviews of mysteries arranged by author. In the Mystery by Region section you can click on a region of the world to bring up mysteries set in that place. Other categories are Forthcoming Mysteries, Sleuths by Occupation, Mysteries in Historical Settings, Christmas Mysteries, Halloween Mysteries, Seriously Humorous Mysteries and Supernatural Mysteries.

MysteryGuide.com at http://www.mysteryguide.com/ is produced by Troutworks, Inc. The site features a database of about 700 original book reviews. There is an author index and reviews are also arranged by type of mystery. Has a "Name That Author" game.

Previous "Linked" columns can be found in a file on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html . If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca. -

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column are two children's services books. These books should be of particular interest to public libraries. These items can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels - send email to Dale MacMillan at macmildr@gov.ns.ca

Denman-West, Margaret - **Children's literature: a guide to information sources.** Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1998. (Call # Prof 028 .5 Den)
This book is essentially a bibliography of bibliographies and other information sources. It was developed for professionals and laypeople. As a guide to more than 400 information sources pertaining to literature for children, it is organized to enable researchers, teachers, librarians, parents and others working with children to locate information using a variety of formats, including books, non-print media, professional journals and, through use of the newest technology, the information superhighway via the internet and CD-ROM. Entries range from theoretical discourses to descriptive and evaluative bibliographies on special topics.

Feinberg, Sandra et al - **Including families of children with special needs**. New York: Neal - Schuman Publishers, 1999. (Call # Prof 027 .6 Inc)
This book focuses on families with children up to age five. The authors' premise in writing this manual is that it is not enough for librarians to say that libraries are welcoming and accessible or that their programs are not restrictive to children with special needs but they must be more proactive in including families of these children in the library's programs and services. As well, they must develop strategies to seek out opportunities to reach these families. This book has a practical approach and provides outlined strategies and methods which are

focused on developing communications, networks, training, programs and collection development.